Airborne Early Warning and Control (AEW&C) have made commendable progress. Few of the projects have been delayed for genuine technological and field trials and evaluation reasons.

Against a set target of Rs.12072 crore, projects totaling to Rs.11385 crore has been taken up, during Tenth Plan.

The project for development of Main Battle Tank, Arjun was completed in March, 1995 with a total expenditure of Rs.305.60 crore, with delivery of 12 prototypes and 15 pre-production series of Arjun Tanks. Army has placed an indent of 124 MBT Arjun on Ordnance Factory Board/Heavy Vehicle Factory, and deliveries commenced.

Light Fighter Plane, Tejas is in Initial Operational Clearance phase. Expenditure incurred in Full Scale Engineering Development (FSED) Phase-I was Rs.2188 crore and in Phase-II is Rs.2195.76 crore. IAF has already placed order for one squadron of Aircraft to Initial Operational Clearance standards.

Army has evaluated the MBT in field trials and accepted it. A few minor defects were noticed during field evaluation of production tanks, which were analysed jointly by DRDO and Army. These production defects were rectified by DRDO and HVF and clearance for production of MBT Arjun has been given by Army.

Linking of villages in M.P. under PMGSY

†*306. SHRI LAXMINARAYAN SHARMA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Madhya Pradesh has sent proposals worth Rs. 1269.6 lakhs on 2nd November, 2006 and 21st December, 2006 to the Secretary, Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India with regard to linking of unconnected villages under the annual Central Financial Scheme under PMGSY, Phase Seven, Bench F;

(b) whether the objections raised on the said proposals were also solved on 12th January, 2007; and

(c) by when Government's sanction will be received in the said matter?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH): (a) Project proposals for 1182 road works for Phase VII (Batch-I), Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) were submitted by the Government of Madhya Pradesh *vide* letter dated 02.11.2006 and 21.12.2006.

(b) Clarifications about project proposals for Phase VII, PMGSY were given by the State Government *vide* letter dated 12.01.2007.

(c) Project proposals for 1182 road works measuring 4934.91 km. and valued at Rs.1295.32 crore have been sanctioned by the Ministry of Rural Development,

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Government of India under Phase VII, PMGSY for Madhya Pradesh *vide* letter dated 06.02.2007.

ill-effect of export of wheat on producers

†*307. SHRI BRIJ BHUSHAN TIWARI:
SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that due to some of the provisions of WTO, the countries importing foodgrains time and again have to open their markets to MNCs;

(b) if so, whether Government have studied the likely ill-effects on wheat producers as a result of its decision to export wheat for the second consecutive year; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Unemployed persons registered in employment exchanges

*309 SHRI THENNALA G. BALAKRISHNA PILLAI: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of unemployed persons registered in the various employment exchanges;

(b) the State-wise break-up; and

(c) the total number of employment opportunities created in the last five years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) The total number of job seekers, all of whom may not necessarily be unemployed, registered in the various employment exchanges in the country as on 31st May, 2007 was 413.7 lakh.

(b) The State-wise break-up of job seekers is given in the Statement (*See* below).

(c) Reliable estimates of employment and unemployment are obtained through quinquennial National Sample Surveys carried out by the National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO). Estimated employment, as per usual status approach has gone up to 459 million in 2004-05 from 397 million in 1999-2000. Employment opportunities for around 12.4 million persons have been created, on an average per year, during the above five years.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.